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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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I have been personally affected by Microsoft's monopolistic practices. For example I was required to buy Windows with a computer system, even though I bought the system to run Linux-based software applications.

When the first computer required replacement, I was again required to buy Windows with a computer system, even though I did not wish to use Windows at all.

Due to the pressure Microsoft has been able to apply to most computer hardware vendors, it is exceedingly difficult to avoid paying for an unwanted Microsoft product. Today most major computer hardware vendors are simply distributors for Microsoft's monopoly.

Again and again, Microsoft has used it's near total operating system monopoly to foist inferior products on the marketplace. Netscape is, in my opinion, a superior product to Microsoft's Explorer, allowing greater control of security and "cookies", for example. Yet even offered free and downloadable, Netscape has great difficulty competing when Microsoft Explorer comes pre-installed.

Furthermore, I am again personally affected by Microsoft's monopolistic practices, since they use their uncompetitive advantage in the web browser market to make further gains in other markets by introducing proprietary

code as additions to Java. More and more, this means that Netscape is unable to completely display web content generated by a Microsoft product. Microsoft's practices are harming my ability to use the web browser of my choice.

Microsoft's willingness to obey the laws against abuse of it's monopolistic position is most clearly illuminated by their staged and provably false demonstrations of Explorer's "integration" into the Windows OS; Microsoft

can not be trusted not to abuse any advantage they can manufacture.

The current settlement is a slap on the wrist that does nothing to rectify =
the=20

monopoly and abuse of monopoly which Microsoft has perpetrated for=20
years. Worse yet, this settlement practically rewards Microsoft for =
breaking=20

the law: it allows them to unfairly make inroads into education -- one of =
the=20

few markets left where Apple computers make up a major market share and=20
Microsoft doesn't have monopoly power.

Far from serving as a punishment preventing monopolistic behavior,=20
the proposed settlement will enable Microsoft to leverage its monopoly=20
power even more, dramatically increasing its penetration of a market=20
segment that has heretofore resisted its total control.

I can only conclude that this settlement will harm me as a consumer.

Sincerely,=20

Keith A. McCall

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